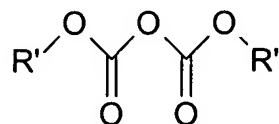


**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

The compounds of formula I in which R is a group -COOR' can be obtained from the compounds of formula Ia by reaction with a pyrocarbonate of the formula



in which R' is a ~~C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>-alkyl~~ C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl group, the reaction being carried out in an aprotic solvent such as acetonitrile, in the presence of an aprotic base such as 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine (DMAP).